(b) whether the storage of missiles is kept away from the storage of other ammunition;

(c) if not, whether it is desirable to do so considering the risks that are involved; and

(d) whether the storage of missiles and other ammunition confirm to the highest safety standards being observed in other countries also?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. However, though the sites for Ammunition Depots were located away from the cities, with passage of time, population growth have started to spread to the vicinity of the Ammunition of Depots.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In view of (b) above, the question does not arise.

(d) The storage of missiles and other ammunition conform to laid down safety standards.

Procurement of Surveillance System from Israel

1098. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken precaution while proceeding to deal for pualocn surveillance system from Israel, keeping in view the non-supply of the same to China under US pressure;

(b) whether it is fact that Russian Air born Surveillance System has been tested in India; and

(c) if so, what was the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Adequate safeguards will be ensured if the deal is finalised with Israel.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The performance of the Russian A-50 AWACS, as observed during the demonstrations, did not meet the requirements of Indian Air force.